Appl. No. 10/717,341
Amdt. sent May 13, 2005
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2188

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

       1. - 8.   (Canceled)

       9.   (Canceled)

1   10.   (Currently amended): A method of operating a storage system ~~according~~

2 ~~to claim 9~~,

3   wherein when a storage system detects that a remaining amount of its own storage

4 area has become less than a predetermined value, a remote storage area is provided by

5 performing a mount operation on one or more disk units at a remote storage system in

6 communication with said storage system so that said remote storage area serves as said storage

7 area,

8   wherein a size and a speed of at least one of reading and writing ~~specifications~~

9 ~~such as a size and a logic format~~ of said remote storage area to be utilized are notified from said

10 storage system to said remote storage system, and

11   wherein said remote storage system provides said remote storage area having said

12 size and said speed ~~specifications~~ as the storage area for said storage system.

1   11.   (Currently amended): A method of operating a storage system ~~according~~

2 ~~to claim 9~~,

3   wherein when a storage system detects that a remaining amount of its own storage

4 area has become less than a predetermined value, a remote storage area is provided by

5 performing a mount operation on one or more disk units at a remote storage system in

6 communication with said storage system so that said remote storage area serves as said storage

7 area,

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8   wherein a utilization state of said remote storage area for said storage system is

9 monitored in said remote storage system, and

10   wherein whether or not ~~said storage area~~one or more spare disk units in said

11 storage system is to be ~~increased~~used is decided according to said utilization state.

1   12.   (Original): A method of operating a storage system ~~according to claim 9~~,

2   <u>wherein when a storage system detects that a remaining amount of its own storage</u>

3 <u>area has become less than a predetermined value, a remote storage area is provided by</u>

4 <u>performing a mount operation on one or more disk units at a remote storage system in</u>

5 <u>communication with said storage system so that said remote storage area serves as said storage</u>

6 <u>area,</u>

7   wherein data stored and managed in said remote storage area is copied to the

8 storage area of said storage system when the storage area of said storage system is enlarged.

13-20. (Canceled)

1   21.   (Currently amended): A method of operating a storage system,

2   wherein when a storage system detects that a remaining amount of its own storage

3 area that is provided by at least one first disk unit installed in said storage system has become

4 less than a predetermined value, a remote storage area that is provided by at least one second

5 disk unit installed in a remote storage system in communication with said storage system is made

6 available as said storage area by performing a mounting operation of said at least one second

7 disk unit,

8   wherein said storage system stores a correspondence between:

9   a port ID for specifying each disk unit <u>installed on said storage system,</u>

10   and

11   an identifier of said first disk unit ~~or an identifier of said second disk unit~~,

12   and

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13   wherein, when said storage system uses said remote storage area as its storage

14 area by performing a mounting operation, said storage system stores a correspondence between:

15   said port ID, and

16   an identifier of said second disk unit that is provided by provides said

17   remote storage system area.